

The Baptist Record

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MissionsFest attracts all ages



Guinevere Young, missionary to Bangladesh, displays her native dress to girls at MissionsFest. (See stories, editorial, and Faces and Places inside.)



Wes Thomas, 11, plays a computer game designed to test missions knowledge. Wes is the son of Frank Thomas, pastor of Alta Woods Church, Jackson.



Robert and Dianne McNamee, missionaries to Ecuador, flank James and Dorothy Mills. Mills is pastor of Emmanuel Church, Biloxi. Mrs. Mills is WMU director there.

Flag bearer hears call to missions

One of the flag bearers at MissionsFest was a new Acteen at First Church, Florence. She told her leader, Dixie Thornton, she was really thrilled to be carrying the flag of a country where a Southern Baptist missionary serves. The previous couple of Sundays, Wendy Barry's Sunday School lessons had been talking about crossing cultural and language barriers. She hadn't figured out how this related to her until the Saturday evening program at MissionsFest where Foreign Mission Board President Keith Parks gave charges to the missionaries and the congregation. "She said she felt like she knew that everything was falling into place," said Thornton. "She knew then that God was calling her to go into the mission field." Talking to Missionary Glenna Stamps of Honduras after making her decision, Wendy, 14, was told she needed to gather prayer support for her decision by making it public at her home church. So Sunday night before she sang a solo at church, Wendy requested prayer for her decision. At the end of the service, another MissionsFest participant, Eddie Henley, who had attended with his father, walked the aisle to say he felt called to become a minister of music. He said it was because of MissionsFest.

New Baptist academy in Budapest is expected to open on schedule

By Mike Creswell

BUDAPEST, Hungary (BP) — The new International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest, expected to open on schedule next July, is taking shape.

Faculty members are being enlisted, a building on the campus of the Hungarian Baptist Seminary is being renovated and excitement is high, reported Southern Baptist representative Errol Simmons, the academy's associate director.

The preparations may seem rather routine to outsiders, but the academy is in Eastern European country, Baptists there noted.

The new school will provide biblical and theological studies for lay pastors and other Baptist leaders from Central and Eastern Europe.

Instruction will include practical topics, such as sermon preparation and delivery, teaching methods, discipleship training, missions and evangelism, music, and youth ministry. English courses will be offered year-round.

Simmons, of Franklinton, La., and his wife, Mary, of Laurel, Miss., moved to Budapest in January to work with the new school after serving in Spain 14 years. He is assisting academy director Laszlo Gerzenyi, a former pastor who teaches at the Hungarian Baptist seminary.

Simmons taught at the Spanish Baptist seminary and directed its extension department and a correspondence program that had more than 5,000 students. He also was a pastor in Spain. Mrs. Simmons taught organ and piano at the Spanish seminary.

"Our work with the Hungarian Baptists is going very well," Simmons said. "We have been warmly received. They have invited me to preach and to attend many of their baptism services and other functions."

The Simmons family reportedly are the first foreign religious workers to receive official visas from Hungary.

With the new openness sweeping through Hungarian political life, they have received "excellent cooperation" from the government, Simmons said.

The academy was even mentioned by Matayas Szuros, president of Hungary's national assembly, in a speech before the European Baptist Federation Congress, held in Budapest in July. The school, said Szuros, is a sign of cooperation between Hungarian Baptists and the European federation.

The government has made some helpful provisions for books and materials to be used in setting up the school, Simmons said.

The academy is being sponsored by Southern Baptists in partnership with the European Baptist Federation and Baptist Theological Seminary in Ruschlikon, Switzerland, with which the school is affiliated.

Mike Creswell is the FMB's overseas correspondent for Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa.

The only safe place

("There's only one safe place — in the will of God." — Tom Thurman, Mississippi WMU annual meeting, March 20, 1989.)

In a world filled with danger could I answer a call
To a land where strife is commonplace?
Would I serve on a field where drought and famine
Carve the pain of hunger on every face?
There is need right around me where wars are not waged,
Souls to be saved on safer sod;
I can labor in places where climate is kinder —
But "the only safe place is in the will of God."

In that pocket of poverty right here in my town
Grimy children whose clothes are in tatters
Need to know that a heavenly Father cares
And that a Savior gives life that matters.
But it's risky to be in that neighborhood
Where crime and disease run roughshod.
Aren't there safer places to meet children's needs?
"The only safe place is in the will of God."

"I was sick and you visited, naked and you clothed" —
But what of the risk of being infected?
"In prison and you came" — but I might get involved;
"Be my witness" — but suppose I'm rejected?
In a world filled with danger, there's nowhere I'm "safe,"
But though harm surround me, my fears God will still;
In the peace he has promised I am secure —
The only safe place is in his will.

—John Tyler, Collins
State WMU president

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

What it's all about

Mississippi Baptists were afforded what might have been the chance of a lifetime during the past weekend, when MissionsFest came to the state. From the opening convocation on Friday night through the final commissioning service on Saturday night, it was an outstanding experience.

Seldom would there be a time anywhere outside of Richmond and except during the Southern Baptist Convention when such Foreign Mission Board executives as President Keith Parks, Executive Vice-President Bill O'Brien, and Vice-President Lewis Myers are together in one place. They were all in Jackson for the MissionsFest, however, along with many other Foreign Mission Board staff members.

Myers, of course, is a Mississippian. He is the director of Cooperative Services International, the Foreign Mission Board subsidiary that is sending Southern Baptists with particular training into areas all over the world where missionaries are not allowed. Included are Hungary, Poland, Russia, East Germany, Yugoslavia, and Mongolia. There are 65 in China.

Until the war in Vietnam forced them out, Myers and his wife were missionaries in that country.

Every pastor in the state would have profited by being present for the entire MissionsFest. For that matter, all 600,000 Mississippi Baptists would have profited, but there would have been no place to seat them.

Personally, I tried to be where Keith Parks was as much as possible. I missed one of his sessions in order to visit a few minutes with friends Jason and Susan Carlisle, missionaries to Uruguay. Otherwise, I tried to hear everything Parks had to say, and it was an education. During one session, Parks said that MissionsFest was an attempt to cram a semester of missions education into a day and a half.

At a dinner meeting that opened the sessions, Parks spoke to about 275 persons. Attendance increased substantially to about 500 for the general session missions rally later on Friday. O'Brien was the speaker on that occasion. He also is an effective speaker.

There were 31 furloughing missionaries present for MissionsFest. Many of them were Mississippians. They represented mission fields all over the world. Also there were 14 emeritus missionaries present and three children of missionaries. Other emeritus missionaries and missionary kids were present who were not on the program.

Foreign Mission Board staff members numbered 17.

All of these people were on hand to be visited and learned from during MissionsFest. There were 65 foreign missions related people serving on the program in one way or another or helping to arrange the program. That is a lot of missions knowledge gathered in one place to acquaint people with foreign missions endeavors and to promote the cause of foreign missions.

On Friday evening and during the day on Saturday missions exhibits were set up in a feature called Global Walkaround. The missionaries present had artifacts and items of in-

terest as well as food and tea from the countries where they are serving. All were used in conferences relating to their areas.

Parks is a storehouse of missions information, procedures, principles, and heart. His conviction is that foreign missions work belongs to all of us, and he is open and anxious to share his commitment and dedication to missions endeavors with all who will listen. And he is a very effective speaker.

The highlight of the MissionsFest was the commissioning service on Saturday evening. Parks was the speaker on this occasion as he presented the charge to the furloughing missionaries who would be returning to their fields and to the congregation to exhort the 2,000 or so who were present to support the missions enterprise.

The commitment time at the close of the service was especially moving. The missionaries, standing across the front of the stage, were the counselors as those making decisions came to the front. As one would approach the stage, a missionary would move out to lead that person to a counseling room. There were a number of decisions. As one woman came forward, Caroline Conerly of Peru, a lovely lady, put her arm around the woman; and they moved to the counseling room.

A young woman approached the stage and went directly to Jason Carlisle to ask him to counsel with her.

And a boy about 12 years of age came to the front and seemed to be wondering where to go in the cavernous municipal auditorium. A missionary quickly took him in tow and led him to the counseling area.

We were trying to sing, "Wherever He Leads, I'll Go," but it became difficult.

Up to that point the missionaries had seemed to be just ordinary individuals like the rest of us; but as people moved forward, they shifted gears. They were in their element. This was what they do best. They became heroes of the faith.

And one of the heroes was Rebekah Naylor, daughter of former South-

western Seminary president Robert Naylor and one of only three missionaries in India. She is a physician. There have been times when there have been fears for her life.

Mississippi's D. P. Smith, formerly of the WMU staff, told of the miraculous conversion of the night guard at her home.

The music was outstanding as the musicians seemed to feel the inspiration and indeed helped to establish the inspiration of the time. On Friday night the First Church choir, directed by Larry Black, along with a small orchestra provided the music. Accompanists were Dot Pray and Becky Payne.

On Saturday night it was a 300-voice choir and a larger orchestra directed by Graham Smith, Church Music Department director. Accompaniment was by Dot Pray of the Church Music Department and Irene Martin of the Baptist Record.

Mike Parks, minister of music at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, directed the congregational singing Saturday night; and Karen Hardy, also of Morrison Heights, was the orchestra coordinator. Lew King, minister of music at Parkway Church, Jackson, composed "I Have Chosen You." During the presentation of "Here Is My Life," soloists were Linda King, Rita Sweatt, and Alisa Brashear.

In his closing message, Parks said that most of the people on this earth do not know what life is. The missionaries, he said, go to give meaning to their lives.

He asked, "What is your church there for? What are you there for? Or more important, why were you redeemed?" He said that we keep trying to give the bread of life to the same people, always seeking to find new ways of doing that, when two-thirds of the world has never had a crumb of the bread of life.

He concluded, "Don't live and die not doing what you were redeemed to do."

Ray Lloyd, pastor of First Church, Starkville, brought 30 of his members to the commissioning service on the church bus. He said, "This is what it's all about, right here."

He was right.



Guest opinion . . .

A prayer request

By Guy Henderson

Prayer is requested for the Japan-Mississippi Partnership Crusade in October. There will be 124 pastors and lay persons organized into 44 teams to work in 44 areas of Japan. This will include visitation, speaking in schools or civic areas, home services, and revival services each evening. In addition, music, instrumental concerts, puppetry, chalk talks, and flannel-graph will be used to present the gospel.

Japan is celebrating 100 years of Baptist work, and the Japan Baptist Convention invited the Mississippi group through the Foreign Mission Board. Japan is one of the more influential nations of our world. It is also one of the least Christian. It is urgent

that we seek to evangelize this nation.

For the four Sundays of October we are requesting all churches to have prayer for this crusade. All WMU, Brotherhood, and other church organizations are urged to pray for these teams as they seek to win the unsaved to Christ, strengthen our churches and pastors, and encourage the missionaries. Individuals are requested to pray daily for the teams to have "wisdom and spiritual understanding . . . to walk worthy of the Lord . . . strengthened with all might according to his glorious power" (Col. 1:9-12).

Guy Henderson is Mississippi Baptist evangelism director.

Guest opinion . . .

"Behold, Lord . . . I give to the poor"

(Luke 19:8, RSV)

By Robert Parham

An estimated 730 million people face each day with little prospects of enough food to eat. They live in Mississippi and Mali, Texas and Tanzania, Georgia and Guatemala. They live in the slums of Nashville and the shantytowns of Nairobi. They live in the barren hollows of Appalachia and the barrios of Argentina. They are hungry in large measure because they are poor.

Both the Old and the New Testaments list the poor as those who are vulnerable to hunger. The Old

Testament speaks about the widow, orphan, and foreigner as vulnerable members of society who need care and justice (Deut. 10:18-19, 15:1-18; Jer. 22:3; Zech. 7:8-10). The New Testament gives us a similar list (Luke 14:12-14; Acts 6:1). Indeed, the biblical insight about who is most at risk to hunger corresponds to today's hunger list: women, children, migrants, immigrants, refugees, and the handicapped.

The Bible also gives us insight into the proper relationship between our conversion to Christ and our responsibilities to care for the impoverished.

When Zacchaeus made his commitment to Jesus, he had a change of heart and lifestyle. He reversed directions. He stopped exploiting people and started caring for them.

"Behold, Lord," Zacchaeus said, "the half of my goods I give to the poor." The man who had become rich as the chief tax collector saw for the first time the plight of the poor and sought to change their situation. The love of Jesus caused him to love others. He practiced radical charity.

But Zacchaeus did not stop with charity. He sought to do justice: "If I have defrauded any one of anything,

I restore it fourfold." He recognized that unfair practices or unjust laws were formed of fraud — deceit, trickery, and cheating. He knew that justice was necessary to correct past wrongs and present evils which caused poverty and hunger. He restored fourfold to those whom he had treated harmfully.

Like Zacchaeus, we must see that conversion to Jesus Christ is the beginning point for Christian involvement in social issues.

We can express our faith on the hunger front in many ways. We can do

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Students will convene at Alta Woods, Jackson

The 1989 Mississippi Baptist Student Union Convention will take place Sept. 29-Oct. 1 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson, with Ken Smith and Esther Burroughs as major speakers.

Smith is pastor of First Church, Pompano Beach, Fla. He will speak Friday evening and will lead a conference Saturday on "In This World But Not of This World." Burroughs is an evangelism consultant for the Home Mission Board. She will speak Saturday evening and will lead a conference Saturday on "Relationships and Christian Sexuality."

Music leader for the convention will be Chuck Maxwell, a contemporary Christian musician from Jackson, Tenn. A series of parable interpretations will be performed by Bryan Humphrey, a lecturer in theater arts at Baylor University.

The Sunday morning worship service will be creative worship led by Maxwell, Humphrey, and Smith.

During the weekend, students who served as summer missionaries will



Humphrey



Maxwell



Burroughs



Smith

give testimonies and the 1990 student missions program will be unveiled. This program is the listing of places where students will be appointed to serve around the world.

Conferences, besides those led by Smith and Burroughs, include such topics as Personal Evangelism, Summer or Semester Missions... Is It for Me? Contemporary Christian Music: Is It Really? Alone with God, Time Management, Summer Service Opportunities in Camps and Assemblies,

Church Employment for College Students, Ministry in the Marketplace, Missions Opportunities After College, Seminary Education, Church Theater, Black and White Students Working Together in BSU, and a session for adult leaders of students.

The weekend program begins at 6:45 p.m., Sept. 29, and concludes at 10:15, Oct. 1.

The program is sponsored by the MBCB Student Work Department.

Accepts Annuity Board presidency

Paul Powell changes mind

By Thomas E. Miller Jr.

DALLAS (BP) — Paul W. Powell, 55, pastor of Green Acres Baptist Church of Tyler, Texas, has reversed himself and accepted election as president of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Trustees were informed of Powell's decision Aug. 30, and he resigned his 17-year pastorate Sept. 3.

Powell will join the Annuity Board as president-elect Oct. 16 and become president March 1, 1990, succeeding Darold H. Morgan, who is retiring after 18 years.

A five-year trustee of the Annuity Board, Powell unanimously was elected by his fellow trustees July 25

after nomination by an eight-member search committee. As late as July 24, Powell had said he would not accept the post, but the search committee secured his permission to let the full board vote on the recommendation.

On Aug. 13, Powell told his congregation he would remain as pastor. The church members gave him a standing ovation.

The search committee met in Nashville Aug. 21 to chart its future course. George H. Balentine Jr., a South Carolina layman and committee chairman, said: "We had a session of prayer for God to give leadership. I felt like, then, something was going to happen. We scheduled another meeting for Sept. 21 in Dallas."

Thursday night, Aug. 24, Powell called Balentine to say: "I can find no peace in the answer I gave you. If you still want me, I will come."

Balentine called each member of the search committee and each member talked personally with Powell during the next several days. Their response was unanimous and affirming of the original vote of the board, he said.

In an interview, Balentine said: "I suppose, some people find God's way an unusual way. We didn't beg Paul. We didn't hound him. We prayed, listened, voted, and then waited for God to make clear to Paul what he had made clear to us — Paul is the man to serve as president."

The search committee considered 41 candidates before settling on Powell

to head the \$2.6 billion pension and insurance agency, Balentine added.

Powell said he received many letters and calls offering prayer and affirmation to whatever decision he made, but one stood out because of its challenge.

"John M. Wright, my boyhood pastor, wrote to give me a verse of Scripture, and it has burned in my heart. It was Matthew 25:23: 'You have been faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many.' He didn't try to make my decision. He just gave the Word and let it speak," Powell said.

Powell was born in Brookeland, Texas, and grew up in Port Arthur. He is a graduate of Baylor University and received the bachelor of divinity degree at Southwestern Seminary.

He has written 16 books, one of which was translated into four languages. He served two terms as president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas (1985-87).

The Tyler congregation, under Powell's leadership, decided several years ago to concentrate evangelistic and church development attention on a single country, Belize, Central America. With the guidance of Southern Baptist missionaries, Green Acres church has paid for construction of eight churches; developed, constructed and donated a retreat center and placed a Bible in virtually every home in the country. The con-

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Missionaries, Parks visit Mississippi "fans"

By Tim Nicholas

Parks Marler, retired Southern Baptist missionary to Greece, told nearly 2,000 Mississippians what he thought of his lifetime of service overseas: "If I had another life, I'd do it again."

Marler was one of 40 furloughing and retired Southern Baptist missionaries who were presented during MissionsFest, a festival on Southern Baptist foreign missions. Marler made his comment during a closing "re-commissioning" service at the festival.

And Marler's comment seemed to sum up the way all the missionaries and Foreign Mission Board staffers felt about their work. Mississippi Baptists — mostly dyed-in-the-wool missions fans already — showed their appreciation for those who represent them overseas with their presence and interest over the two-day event.

The weekend included fellowship with the missionaries, messages by Keith Parks, FMB president, and a bit of pageantry. It was sponsored by the FMB and the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The FMB is co-sponsoring a number of these events in several states.

The two evening services, Friday at First Church, Jackson, and Saturday at the Jackson city auditorium, were opened with flag processions representing the 116 countries where Baptists have work. The second ended with an invitation to respond to mission service opportunities. A number of the flag bearers recruited from Acteen and RA groups responded to the invitation.

Speeches, sermons, and testimonies by missionaries and FMB staffers filled the rest of the weekend, all speaking of the great needs on the mission field and how Southern Baptists are struggling to meet those needs.

Keith Parks spoke to various forums five times during the weekend, talking to individuals and smaller groups throughout. One major talk was a sermon he called "Missions: The Bible's Central Theme."

Parks said that God's plan is "to bring everything together under the lordship of Jesus Christ." He said that "the simple truth of the gospel is 'as you go, tell the story of Jesus ... (and) all the peoples will come to God the same way we have.'"

Parks lamented people's mistranslation of "For God so loved the world ..." He said that "We translate the world to mean our little world, rather than God's great world Jesus came to save." He spoke of missionaries' parents sometimes "doing everything they can to lay guilt on them for leaving." Parks told pastors to tell those parents to "do what God did — send his child to a lost world."

He added, "God will carry out his plan to carry his great good news to all people of the world. This great, simple mystery is proclaimed the clearest through the incarnation ... (God) wrapped himself in a baby's body." For 30 years the world could look at him and say "Here's God."

Executive Vice President of the FMB Bill O'Brien spoke on Friday evening on the debt Christians owe God. "We are in God's debt ... conduits of God's mercy given to us to pass on."

He said that for 2,000 years God has chosen to work through human instrumentalities to pass on his message. "He is calling us together to see the world real, serve it well, and save it together," O'Brien said. "Is it worth it? God, says yes." O'Brien paused and said "What evidence is

there we agree with him?"

Though most of the missionaries' speaking was to individuals over the weekend and in Jackson area churches Sunday, several spoke briefly to the assembled MissionsFest-goers.

Dennis Hale, missionary to Spain, recalled kneeling in his dorm room at Clarke Memorial College 31 years ago after having read in the Baptist Record of another church being closed in that country saying, "God, if you want me to go to Spain, I'll go." Seven years later he went and has served there ever since.

Rebekah Naylor, surgeon in Bangalore, India, who faced labor troubles at her hospital, said "After 15 years in India, I can assure you of the sufficiency of God's grace in every situation." She added she has learned of the "constancy of his calling and the confirmation of a ministry of healing in the kingdom."

Retired missionary to Indonesia, Win Applewhite, told of a return visit to his place of service, talking for hours with Christian nationals he had left behind. They had won many to Christ themselves. "I realized the Lord had carried out that charge better than I had ... God had multiplied it over and over again."

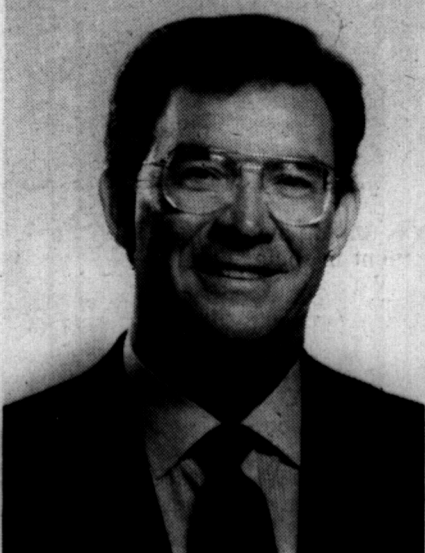
Prayer needs were expressed by the missionaries: Caroline Conerly of Peru said the greatest need is for church planters all over the world. Stanley Stamps of Honduras asked for prayer for new work among ethnics in that Central American country: the Garifuna and the Miskito Indians. Glenna Stamps asked for prayer in starting a Bible study for their neighbors in their home. Randy Trail of Rwanda asked for prayer concerning Christian students at the University of Rwanda who are reluctant to get involved in church life there. James Young of Bangladesh asked for prayer for many new Christians, many of whom "expect persecutions, are ostracized, beaten physically. Pray they remain strong and firm in the faith." Guinevere Young said 80 percent of Bangladesh people are illiterate. "Pray for someone to work with Josna so she can learn to read and write," she said.

In speaking to the missionaries and the congregation at the Saturday evening service, Parks referred to the riot at Ephesus discussed in the Bible in the Book of Acts. The scripture notes that "most did not even know why they were there," said Parks.

He said that around the world many do not know why they are there — or why they were born. He told of talking with a Vietnamese journalist who said his philosophy is that "Life is a springtime that never comes." In Senegal at the time when Americans celebrate Thanksgiving, a man said if such a celebration were to be held, he would call it "God-Has-Forgotten-Us Day." At his former home in Indonesia, Parks said a man who had planned to kill himself asked Parks "Can you tell me someone who is worthy of the sacrifice of my life?"

To the missionaries, Parks said "Most of the people of this world don't even know why they're on earth." He added, "But you know."

Parks asked the congregation if they have "found the purpose for which he (God) saved you and are you fulfilling that purpose?" He said that many just keep trying to "tickle the fancy" of people to try to "get them back on Sunday night while the rest of the world doesn't have a crumb of the bread of life. And we're not acting like Jesus when we do it."



Paul Powell

Parks discusses partisanship, new styles of missionaries

By Tim Nicholas



Keith Parks

In a series of wide ranging conversations with Mississippi Baptists, the president of the Foreign Mission Board told of the evacuation of missionaries from the area that is home to drug leaders in Colombia and spoke of concerns for current FMB trustee activities. Parks spoke in three question and answer sessions during MissionsFest.

Missionaries assigned to Medellin, where the leadership of Colombia's cocaine industry live, have been moved from the area. In other areas of Colombia, Parks said, "missionaries are being extremely cautious."

He told of the FMB's policy of allowing missionaries themselves to decide what to do in potentially dangerous situations. "The approach we take is from the FMB we give support and affirmation for the decisions the local missionaries make," Parks added that in the case of Colombia, "probably a good portion of our force will move to other countries or come on furlough early unless things change."

In response to two former journeymen who said they were concerned about a potential narrowing of scope of appointment of missionaries, Parks said he was sorry that they were not the only ones asking such questions.

"We are trying to keep the Foreign Mission Board focused on a mission agenda rather than a political agenda," Parks said. He said his hope and prayer is that "We can maintain an inclusive approach and not exclude a portion" of Southern Baptists. He said if the FMB appointed "only those in the right wing camp" the board would have destroyed its effectiveness.

Part of the problem, he said, was that "some of the people on the board have not had much experience in missions" coming to such a leadership position with a particular perspective on doctrine, unable to see the consequences of narrowing the board's focus.

"Through the years we have appointed from the broad spectrum of Southern Baptists," he said. "We must never gear down to one spectrum of the convention. Thus far the board has not made any decisions that would change that." He added, "We're struggling with that."

Specifically to the former journeymen, Parks encouraged them to consider foreign missions if God has called them to it. "Don't make decisions based on what might happen."

Parks answered a question concerning accounts of the Pennington situation. Greg and Katrina Pennington of Oklahoma were turned down for appointment by a trustee committee after approval by FMB staff. Parks said the reason the trustee committee gave was that Mrs. Pennington's ordination was divisive.

He said that because of misconceptions, the Penningtons will be allowed to reapply for appointment in less than the usual minimum two years. He said the way "our staff understands it, the church and those who know say (the Penningtons do not have) a divisive spirit."

Concerning a question about church planting on the foreign field, Parks said that the board has emphasized evangelism and church starting as our focus. "We have recently made a new emphasis on that urging that more and more of our missionaries

devote more time (to church starting and evangelism). We are not saying all of these will be church planter-preacher types."

He said that sometimes the best way to evangelism and church starts is through agricultural missionaries, musicians, or veterinarians. About half the appointed missionaries are involved in evangelistic outreach. "We're trying to move that higher," he said.

Asked about the possibility of reaching Bold Mission Thrust goals, Parks said that such goal-setting is not valid for the FMB. He said the goals included a ten-fold multiplication of both churches and of membership overseas. "The churches overseas are the ones to do that," he said.

However, in terms of volunteer involvement, the goals have been reached and career appointments to 5,000 by the end of the century is "still a reachable goal," although appointments are not moving as quickly as they should. Appointments in 1989 are under 300 so far, continuing a five year drop in totals.

"We're going to make strenuous efforts to accomplish the goal... (but) if we don't change the percentages in the next two to three years, we won't make it."

Parks talked about changing styles of mission work. A number of countries simply won't accept career missionaries on a permanent basis — such as some of the communist or Muslim controlled areas of the world. However, 65 Southern Baptists are serving in China today, not as missionaries but teaching and other fields with the government knowing full well that a Christian witness will be offered.

Cooperative Services International, headed by Mississippian Lewis Myers, is the arm through which many of these unconventional approaches are made. Itinerant missionaries are being appointed "like the old circuit-riding preachers except they fly from country to country instead of riding from village to village," he said. These get tourist visas, stay two or three months, then go to another country. A

team of four couples could do the equivalent of full time work in each of four countries. "One couple moved 99 times last year," said Parks of these missionaries who live out of suitcases. "We've never been happier," the couple told him. "We wouldn't trade places with anyone in the world."

Parks told of other styles of work, including the non-resident missionary who learns the language of a people and attempts to influence them toward God without ever entering their country. Encouraging Christian broadcasters to beam into that country or helping with a scripture translation are ways to serve.

And then there's the modern tent-maker approach where handpicked people sign a covenant of commitment before traveling for the board. "We just sent two couples — we won't even tell you where they've gone," he said. Knowledge of their work would jeopardize their work permits "or even their lives," said Parks.

"Communism is radically being altered across the world. The harsh and severe control that has tried to strangle and destroy Christianity in many nations has been relaxed," he said. He said there is an appointed couple in Budapest, Hungary. There is training now available for pastors in Eastern Europe. There is a request for missionaries to live in Poland, East Berlin, and Yugoslavia. He said it is also likely that Baptists will be stationed for a period of time in the Soviet Union.

Parks said he is praying that the present government in Iran will allow Christianity to be a publicly recognized religion. "We feel there is a great underground movement of Christianity there," he said.

Recently, Baptist leaders negotiated for volunteer English teachers to travel to Mongolia, heretofore basically closed to the West. They are teaching English to tour guides and to English teachers in the various schools. Communication to that country was difficult and slow. One letter hadn't arrived in four months. Parks said he talked with Ted Mall, the Home Mission Board's representative to the delegations at the United Nations in New York. Mall told him that the ambassador to Mongolia had been in Mall's home the week before telling Mall he would be glad to help in any way. Now the ambassador's diplomatic pouch is being made available for letters and books into Mongolia.

Asked why more evangelists are not volunteering to serve overseas when such is the top priority request year after year from the mission fields, Parks said that Baptists are "controlled in our churches by cultural values and not enough by spiritual values." He said that Southern Baptists have too many "comforts" they are not willing to do without. He said it's too late by the time a person reaches seminary, but that influencing a person for foreign missions must take place in the local church.

Relatedly, Parks said that "Southern Baptists support foreign missions more out of ignorance than anything else. If they really knew what was going on, there's no telling what we could do." Mississippi Baptists who attended the MissionsFest and heard Keith Parks had a chance to really know.

CAC revamps legislative action calling system

Trustees of the Mississippi Christian Action Commission during their Sept. 5 meeting in Jackson revamped a legislative action calling system in Mississippi, approved a new position description for a staff member, and heard from the state insurance commissioner on health insurance for the uninsured.

ActionLINE is the commission's "Legislative Input Network" which allows the commission to be in contact with each associational director of missions and Christian Action chairperson through an expanded network of callers.

"The probability of intense legislative action on gambling, abortion, drugs, and other issues necessitated the ActionLINE in the minds of trustees," said Paul Jones, executive director of the commission. "Recent action in Congress intensified the commitment of the trustees to utilize the network to allow our churches to be involved in the legislative process," he said.

The commission approved an expanded position description of Beth Holmes. She will carry the additional responsibilities of editor of the publications of the commission, coordinator of part time and special workers, and serve as a registered lobbyist of the commission. Her new title will be director of information services, a title reflecting an expanded role of research and data collection.

George Dale, state insurance commissioner told trustees about possible changes in state insurance laws in-

cluding an "uninsurable health pool" which is in place in 33 states. Such a pool would allow persons who are presently uninsurable to purchase health and medical coverage. The commission also heard discussion of compulsory liability insurance and the problems related to some insurance action in other states based on initiative and referendum.

In addition, trustees were told that, in line with the MBC shortfall expected this year, the 1990 commission budget will be recommended to the convention at \$149,589.

Crooked Creek (Lawrence) to hold camp meeting

Crooked Creek Church in Lawrence County will kick off its annual camp meeting Sept. 24-29 with homecoming, Sept. 24. A covered dish dinner will be served after the 11 a.m. service. Afternoon services are planned.

Evening services at the church's camp ground on Crooked Creek Road at 7 p.m. will be led by James Fancher, pastor of First Church, Monticello, and a former evangelist. The 10:30 a.m. services will be conducted by Jimmy Yarbrough, pastor of First Church, New Hebron, also a former evangelist.

Jimmy Yokam, pastor of Victory Church, Monroe, La., will be music director. Rose Davis of Crooked Creek will be organist.

For details on camping facilities, contact the pastor, Joe Royalty, at 582-9644.



Zion Hill and Biloxi win slowpitch

Winners in the Mississippi Baptist State High School Boys Slowpitch Tournament were Zion Hill Baptist Church, Wesson, first place. Second place winner was First Baptist Church, Biloxi.

Zion Hill, top photo, players included Stephen Ashley, Jason LeCompte, Jerry Barton, Gabe Newman, Scott Langley, David Loper, Mike Douglas, Chad May, John Martin, Jeff Parker, David McLendon, Bradley Crow, Waylon Madison, Scott Ashley, and Scott Jerome.

First Church, Biloxi, players (bottom) were Mark Lacey, Christian Buford, Paul Taylor, Greg English, Jon Adkins, Dean Bublich, Giles King, Kevin Nagy, Mike Wright, Kyle Michael, Brett Hinman, and Brad Benton.

Thursday, September 21, 1989

Mississippians find welcome in Brazil



These Mississippians were among a larger group comprising 10 teams who went to Florianopolis, Brazil for a Partnership Evangelism Project. They worked with Mississippi missionaries Terry and Cathy Sharp, pictured first and second row at left. Charles Wallace, minister of music and education at First Church, Summit, front row, third from left, said this was the first such project ever attempted in that Brazilian city. Wallace said his team preached mostly in fishing villages and speaking in schools. "Any school we went to they said come in and speak to our children," said Wallace, comparing that open door attitude to that in American schools. "That was one of the best things we did, with five to 10 minutes in each class. We got to sing a little and share a testimony about Jesus Christ." When the group later visited homes in the fishing villages, they were generally welcomed since the children had told their parents of these visitors. "Even agnostics and atheists wanted to hear about God," said Wallace. The 10 teams experienced more than 200 professions of faith from those to whom they witnessed. Another result was one new preaching point established and two home Bible studies, one on a Brazilian Air Force Base. The church out of which they worked has about 50 members. Wallace said he was impressed that such a tiny church has four preaching points. "They're doing what we should do," he said. Pictured are, from left, front row, Cathy Sharp; Roger Stacey, missionary, Pontotoc; Wallace; back row: Terry Sharp; Hudora Lewman, First Church, Summit; Mike Wiggins, pastor, Fairview Church, Indianola; and Tim Moak, First Church, Summit.

Profs want to delay hiring

By Marv Knox

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Southeastern Seminary faculty and trustees will hold a joint workshop this fall, seeking to alleviate the school's accreditation woes.

Meanwhile, the faculty has called for a moratorium on selecting new teachers until the faculty-selection procedure is "modified to conform" to accreditation standards.

The proposals are included in documents filed this summer with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of two accrediting agencies examining the seminary.

The other accrediting agency, the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, has asked Southeastern to "show cause . . . why it should not be placed on probation."

Controversy engulfed the seminary almost two years ago, when a new conservative majority took control of its trustee board, saying they intended to turn the school in a more conservative direction.

Subsequently, at least 18 faculty and administrators — including the president and faculty dean — have resigned or retired. Former President W. Randall Lolley and some others who left said they could not live with a new faculty-selection process, which they said ensured that only biblical inerrantists could be hired.

Enrollment has fallen about 43 percent, from 1,046 students in the fall of 1987 to perhaps 600 this fall.

Both accrediting agencies launched their investigations more than a year ago. Both have issued reports critical of the seminary. The American Association of University

Professors also has censured the seminary.

In March, Southeastern trustees ratified their responses to the agencies in similar documents with more than 100 pages each. They countered the agencies' charges point by point.

Trustees also approved a process for developing an "institutional response" requested by the Southern Association. That response was drafted this summer by Southeastern President Lewis A. Drummond after meeting with selected trustees, faculty, staff, students, and alumni, as well as a "facilitator" suggested by the Association of Theological Schools.

A faculty committee wrote its response and submitted it to the Southern Association, as well as the administration and trustees.

Both the presidential/institutional and faculty responses are organized around issues raised by the accrediting agencies: institutional effectiveness/image, faculty selection, perceptions of academic freedom, and seminary governance.

Parties involved in the accreditation process have been reserved in their comments on the matter.

L. Russ Bush III, the seminary's academic vice president and dean of the faculty, said: "We have to make a serious response, and I think we're doing that. The institutional report set up a plan or procedure by which we would attempt to arrive at satisfactory solutions to the problems — not setting forth answers to the problems but setting forth a procedure. We're well on our way toward that, because we have this plan in place that puts everybody talking to each other."

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Richard Hester, professor of pastoral care and one of three faculty members who drafted the faculty's response, said that Drummond's institutional response and the faculty's document are not mutually exclusive. He noted: "The faculty cares very much about accreditation. Accreditation is helping schools maintain established standards for higher education. We're committed to those norms and our school upholding them. If not, we're committed to telling the truth about that and doing what it takes to comply with those norms."

Trustees offered varying views on the subject.

Mark Caldwell, pastor of University Baptist Church in College Park, Md., and a member of the trustee minority who opposed the 1987 changes, said: "We should say to ATS and SACS, 'We have no intention of allowing our present faculty sufficient say in the selection of their peers to meet your criteria.'"

"When, however our faculty has a controlling majority of inerrantists, we will re-apply for accreditation, because at that time we will give faculty a voice in keeping with your standards."

Chairman Robert Crowley, pastor of Montrose Baptist Church in Rockville, Md., noted: "I have always felt — because there has to be justice in the world and because the people in the academic accrediting associations can see the facts and evaluate them — that we are not in any trouble at all. This especially is true when you consider that some things said about us are untrue and some things we have done have been changed back to the way they were."

Drummond has malignant tumor

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — Lewis A. Drummond, president of Southeastern Seminary here, is recovering well after doctors found cancer in his colon in late August, a seminary official reported.

Doctors at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C., discovered a malignant tumor in Drummond's colon, said Paul Fletcher, the seminary's vice president for internal affairs.

Doctors believe the tumor is confined and has not spread, Fletcher added. He said Drummond has begun chemotherapy and radiation treatment and is responding well to his medication.

A decision concerning whether to remove the tumor will be made later in the fall semester, Fletcher said.

Cross Roads Church, Pelahatchie, will dedicate new sanctuary

Cross Roads Church, located on Highway 43 South, Pelahatchie, will dedicate its new sanctuary and fellowship hall on Sept. 24, at 2 p.m. Activities will include Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m. and dinner on the grounds at noon.

Victor Bowman, former pastor and now missionary to Chile, will bring the dedication message. Music will be directed by Tommy Norris Moore, with special music by the church choir, and former members who have gone into Christian music.

Cross Roads Church was organized in 1916 with 18 charter members and the first sanctuary was completed in 1923. Wayne Crenshaw is pastor.

Off the Record

Foreman: That apprentice carpenter you just hired hammers like lightning.

Contractor: He's that fast, eh?

Foreman: No, he never strikes twice in the same place.

A panic-stricken man called the fire department and shouted that his barn was on fire.

"How do we get there?" asked the chief.

"Don't you still have your red truck?" the man replied.

"Behold Lord . . ."

(Continued from page 2)

acts of charity through hunger contributions sent to the Foreign and Home Mission Boards. We can also do acts of justice through practicing fairness in the marketplace, working for better tax systems, reforming harmful laws, and supporting effective programs.

We give witness to our commitment to Christ when we do both charity and justice for the poor. We show our love for Christ when we act in a hungry world to feed others and to help the hungry feed themselves.

Robert Parham is an associate director of the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Revival results

Carmel, Monticello: Cliff Estes, evangelist; Sammy McDonald, pastor; nine professions of faith; one by letter; twelve baptized; Vacation Bible School had 201 enrolled; 186 average attendance; five professions of faith; offering taken for Dickerson Place was \$50.23.

Paul Powell changes mind

(Continued from page 3)

gregation has built one church in a foreign country each year for the last 12 years.

Ministry teams from Tyler have provided Bible schools, revival leadership, medical missions, and educational retreats.

Green Acres Baptist Church, with 7,000 members, is a leader in Texas Baptist Bible study, evangelism and missions. It contributes 10 percent of its budget to Southern Baptists' unified giving plan, the Cooperative Program, and has voted to increase that amount by one-half of one percent for each of the next ten years. Some 3,000 gather each week for Sun-

day School in the church and its eight local missions; two Hispanic, one Black, one Korean and four Anglo. The church's 1989 budget is \$2.5 million. Baptisms numbered 202 in 1988.

The church's soup kitchen, "Manna House," will serve 18,000 free meals this year, providing a hot meal every day to the needy and transient in the east Texas community.

"Joseph's Closet," the church's clothing ministry, will provide clothing for 20,000 persons during 1989.

One night each week the congregation provides free medical and dental services, and will treat 2,000 people before the year is out.

Literacy volunteers are teaching English to 50 immigrants, 20 of whom are studying for American citizenship.

"That's who my people are, and that's who I am," said Powell, "pastor of a church that gets things done."

"We provide a foster home in cooperation with Buckner Benevolences, a missionary house for furloughing foreign missionaries and a tutoring program for minority children," he added.

Mrs. Powell is the former Cathy Vaught, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Vaught of Port Arthur. They have three children.

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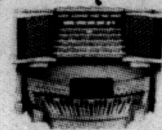
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Letters to the editor

Proud of paper

Editor:

I want to express my appreciation to you for the excellent job that you and your staff have done in publishing the Baptist Record. I have reference to local, state, and convention events. During a recent week at Ridgecrest I spent some time in the media center looking through all the state papers. I came away proud of our state paper.

I want to commend you for your efforts in behalf of the state "Adopt a Highway" litter campaign. I remember several years ago you emphasized this in some of your editorials. This has really caught on in our state and has aided greatly in our efforts to control litter on our highways. I believe that this is a part of our Christian stewardship.

Bobby Walton, pastor
Benoit Church
Benoit

At-home missions

Editor:

Recently we held a World Missions Conference in our association, and I discovered some things that have troubled me greatly since that time. While sitting behind someone, passing by someone in the hallway, or waiting my turn at the restroom I overheard several statements such as: "Aren't those missionaries such wonderful people to dedicate their whole lives to serve the Lord?" "Isn't it wonderful how the Foreign (or Home) Mission Board is appointing those people to such needed places in the world, like the dark jungles of

Africa. Those people really need the Lord." Or "I'm so glad they came to share their experiences with us. It's just wonderful to know God is doing such great things 'over there.'"

All of these statements are fine. I've said them myself many times, but what troubles me is that I'm afraid many of us are always putting the "mission field" in some other place of the world, or on someone "appointed" by the mission boards.

Ministry is personal. It is in our place of work; at school; in the grocery store; our next door neighbor; and, yes, even in our own homes. Our mission field is wherever we are in the world, be it the jungles of Africa, or Bolivia, or Virginia, or even Mississippi. We cannot put the mission field in some other part of the world away from us. It is right outside our front door.

I am sometimes amazed by the statistics I hear of those who are unbelievers, especially here in the United States. I say to myself, "How can people here in the United States who have such an opportunity to hear the gospel not accept it?" Then I realize it is because out of the 14 million Southern Baptists in the world today we have become totally dependent on 6,000 "appointed missionaries" to share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

If you want to see a mission field, look right out your front door because it begins right where you are. If you want to see an "appointed missionary," look in the mirror, because it begins with you!

Name withheld



D. P. Smith stands between a staff member of the print shop on left, and Forrest Adair, a lay member of First Church,

McComb, who spent a month last year as a volunteer teaching printing techniques to the publishing group in Abidjan.

Furloughing missionary still on call

By Tim Nicholas

D.P. Smith is a Southern Baptist missionary on furlough. At the recent National Acteens Convention in San Antonio she was a missionary on call.

The Jackson native, assigned to the Ivory Coast in West Africa, provided theme interpretations for the convention, usually riding her unicycle onto the stage before the 13,000 teenage girls, putting on funny hats, and having fun with the girls. She also sang in a "small group" Bible study that averaged 2,000 in attendance.

But the memories that stand out in her heart are of the personal encounters with girls who were having encounters with God. "Lots of times kids would say 'I feel the Lord is calling me into some kind of mission work. What do I do now?' Several kids did that," she said.

"The main thing I would try to tell them is if they would just follow the Lord every single day, if he had a special assignment for them they would be at the right place at the right time," she said.

D.P. said she felt God calling her into some kind of special service when she was 13. "He would show me a little at a time. That is God's love because he doesn't overwhelm us at the time and gives us his grace to be able to do it."

Late one evening in San Antonio, D.P. came upon four girls "from a very, very small town" looking forlorn. "They were four little girls who wanted to go home," she said. D.P. sat down with them for about an hour and a half, laughing and carrying on. "I got them to be my prayer team that I would be able to speak, that my voice would be able to hold out." (She had bronchitis at the time.) D.P. saw

the girls the next day, their homesickness over, "having a blast," she said.

Another night, D.P. was one of the last to leave the arena and encountered an adult and a teenage girl on the ramp. "Hey, lady, come meet a new Christian," the adult said. The new Christian looked about 14. "Your theme interpretation is the thing that really made me think seriously about accepting Christ," the girl told D.P. The girl's leader said they were going to get the girl a Bible since she'd never owned one.

"I jerked mine out and signed it off to her because I have so many," said D.P. She said the whole week was like that, "one on one talking with kids, investing with them."

The missionary said she tells anyone who might be considering missionary work with the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board to get his or her education. "When they look through Scripture," she said, "They'll realize that Paul was extremely well educated. Moses was raised by Pharaoh with the best education of his time. God was able to use all the education they had and he expects us to do the best we can with the brains he's given us."

D.P. also said that anyone not knowing what to pray when praying for missionaries could consider missionaries' health, their safety, and their language — that they'll be able to communicate with the people what's on their heart.

She knows whereof she speaks. D.P. admits to having a tough time in language school learning French in Tours, France. Her understanding of the phrase "foreign missionary"

changed. "They aren't the foreigners, we are," she said. Before her furlough is up early next year, she'll probably take an advanced language course to improve communication — which is what she does for a living — communicate.

D.P. Smith is a print shop production manager for Baptists in the Ivory Coast. She was appointed as an artist and does a great deal of drawing, but she and the native staff also take material when it comes out of the editorial department, format it, decide graphic art illustrations, pasteup, shoot negatives, make plates for the press, order paper, and then hand collate materials.

They produce tracts and pamphlets "dealing with everything from doctrine to health issues," she said. The shop produced a friendship evangelism piece for a calligraphy calendar which is all scripture. In the middle it has an evangelistic tract in the centerfold with the possibility of ordering Bible Way correspondence materials, she said.

Her artistic workmanship is showing up in the most unusual places. She served on a Christian committee for the battle against AIDS. This gave her opportunities to speak in churches

and in public schools and include the gospel message. Her shop produced educational packets on AIDS and she "was volunteered" by fellow missionary Mitchell Land who was serving on a government committee for AIDS education.

What she was volunteered to do was to produce a logo for the national committee and a poster for AIDS awareness. That poster with D.P.'s logo ended up at the country's cabinet meeting with all the government ministers and the president. It's displayed in all pharmacies, on banners across streets, and at the airport in Abidjan.

Personal involvement, despite language difficulties, comes naturally for D.P. Zongo, a Muslim who was hired to guard her home in Abidjan at night became a Christian because of her witness. She said in her prayer time, the Lord let her know she was to give Zongo the gospel of John in French.

"He was watering the flowers. He dropped the hose and with both hands took it as if it were gold. The next morning he asked 'Do you have anything else I can read?' It was incredible his hunger for the Word."

A couple of days later, D.P. led him through a tract called "Comment Avoir une Nouvelle Vie," and showed him how to find the verses in a New Testament. "As we sat on the front steps of my house, he accepted Christ as his personal savior," she said.

According to D.P., Zongo is an avid Bible student, going through nine correspondence Bible study books in six months. Now he's taking Theological Education by Extension courses. He changed his name to Isaiah Zongo to



Isaiah Zongo, D. P. Smith's night guard, became a Christian following her witness. He is now trying to win his family members to Christ. Smith was appointed from the Mississippi WMU staff.

show to others he was now a Christian and told D.P., "I have found truth. Jesus Christ is real. One day my whole family will be Christian." She said that since that time another of his brothers has become a Christian.

This happened to D.P. at a time when she was getting tired of working with paper and ink. "I needed that. The Lord encouraged me that way," she said.



This is the logo D. P. Smith designed for a widely distributed pamphlet on AIDS.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

A feast of missions

MissionsFest was just that — a feast of missions.

From the beginning, the Sept. 8, 9 event in Jackson was a feast for the taste buds. For Friday evening's dinner at First Baptist Church, I sat by Ina McFall of Braxton and Juanita Hight of Louisville, across the table from Lodena Waggoner and Kermit and Vernoy Reynolds of Forest. Before we listened to Keith Parks talk about new directions in foreign missions, we ate a meal that starred steak and blueberry cheesecake, on tables decorated by the Rankin County WMU Council.

Next day the Global Walkaround for me was like "old home week," for I saw so many of my missionary friends from around the world and so many of my friends from around Mississippi. At the Brazil exhibit, Freda and Edd Trott offered me coconut candy. Retired this year after 32 years as missionaries in Brazil, they told me they've bought a house in Jackson. I sampled banana chips from Ghana and green tea from Japan.

"Would you like some breakfast?" That was the voice of Guinevere Young. I'd seen her and James last in Bangladesh. And here she was in a flowered sari on a Saturday morning in Jackson, serving scoops of popped rice.

Saturday's complimentary lunch came from the Mississippi Baptist Disaster Van. Those men can cook catfish almost as well as W.D. can cook white perch. I ate with Florence Ann Larrimore, who is coordinator of the nursery at First Church.

MissionsFest was a feast for the eyes. Missionaries from four continents modeled their countries' costumes. I caught sight of a perky black beret and recognized the wearer as Jason Carlisle, Uruguay. Judith Hale's smile was framed by a white lace headpiece from Spain. Caroline Conerly, Peru, said her white dress with eyelet embroidery ruffles was actually a petticoat and she was supposed to wear another layer or so of skirts over it. David Mayhall's variegated garment represented West Africa. Rebekah Naylor, a doctor in India, looked beautiful in a red silk sari. . . . Their exhibits of trinkets and treasures from many lands added to the feast of color — boxes and rugs, Bibles in several languages, dolls and shawls, rugs and maps. . . .

MissionsFest was a feast for the ears, especially the music during the commissioning service Saturday evening at the City Auditorium — from the flag processional and "Crown Him with Many Crowns" to the benediction and the final crescendo of "Jesus Saves!"

It was a feast for the heart to listen to testimonies of unusual responsiveness to the gospel message in many places; of hard-to-reach peoples being reached by non-traditional methods; of missions op-

portunities, just waiting to be plucked.

Concerning Moslems, Dr. Parks had one encouraging word: He said a Christian who came out of Iran told of an Iranian pastor who walks the streets of Teheran eight hours a day, praying for revival in Iran. This Christian reported that they have seen in Iran what Islam really is, and are turning to Christianity, that their churches are being filled to the point there's danger of the balconies falling. Parks said he is praying that the government there will allow Christianity to be a publicly recognized religion. He added, "I feel there is a great underground movement of Christianity in Iran."

Concerning Communism, he said the harsh restraints they placed on Christianity have in many places been relaxed. He said it is likely that Baptists may be stationed in the Soviet Union (not as appointed missionaries but with something like Christian Services International).

Film Festival: The film, "Enduring Faith," that the Foreign Mission Board, SBC, shot in Russia, the Ukraine, and Soviet Georgia last year was superb. Pictures of worship services included many children, where once children were forbidden to go to church before age 18. One Russian pastor (in the film) said that his fellow countrymen (who have known a lot of suffering over the years) have "an enormous interest in Jesus Christ. I can feel that people believe Jesus Christ is the last hope of the age. We are praying for revival. We ask people in other countries to pray for us."

Just a note about Spain: I know that they have religious freedom, and have had for quite a while. However, this was not always true. While I was writing *Sent to Love*, the biography of missionaries, Charles and Indy Whitten, I read about earlier days of persecution and imprisonment of Protestants in a land where Catholicism was the state religion. Dennis Hale, who led one of the conferences at MissionsFest, said there was no religious freedom at the time he and Judith were appointed in 1965. But that situation has changed. When a group of 20 volunteers in recent times went from Madrid to work in the church in Oviedo, where the Hales live, the Catholic seminary in Oviedo housed the volunteers at no charge — except to ask Dennis to preach for them during their Week of Prayer for World Peace!

MissionsFest was a challenge. Darker threads showed through the golden cloth of optimism. More than 5 billion people live in the world. But the Christian world represents only 33 percent of the world's population. There are 235 countries in the world, but only 139 are open to the gospel. At present, 44 are closed or extremely difficult to enter, and 52 have only limited access. Our missions offerings are not large enough. The number of missionaries we have sent is not large enough.

At the closing commitment service, Dr. Parks said to the crowd, "People all over the world don't know why they are there. They don't know why they were born. But you know. You (who have been redeemed) know why. You are here tonight for a reason. Do you know what it is? . . . The only thing worse than not knowing why you are there is to know why you are there and not do anything about it."



Japan orientation

Earl Kelly, executive director-treasurer emeritus of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, presents the opening devotional thoughts during the final orientation meeting before 124 Mississippians go to Japan in October for a partnership evangelism campaign. Kelly and his wife, Marjorie, will be going with the second wave to Japan. They will be serving the Nishi Church in Kobe.

Staff changes

Northminster Church, Jackson, has called Roger Paynter as its new pastor. Paynter moves to Jackson from Lake Shore Church in Waco, Texas, where he has been senior minister for six years. Paynter received a bachelor of arts from Baylor Seminary, and a doctor of ministry from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University. He is currently serving on the national board of directors of the Southern Baptist Alliance, and has been published in many professional journals and magazines.

Paynter is the fourth pastor in the history of Northminster Church which was formed in 1967, and has been in its current location since 1973.

West Marks Church, Marks, has a new minister of music, Bob Whittington.

Thursday, September 21, 1989

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7



Mrs. Eileen E. Justice of Baltimore, Md., traveled the farthest to attend the final orientation meeting before the Japan Partnership Evangelism Campaign begins. She made the trip by bus just to be in the meeting. Mrs. Justice will be going to Japan with the second wave and serve in the Ube mission. The preacher for that team will be Lannie Wilbourn, pastor of Pinelake Church, Brandon. Mrs. Justice chats with Guy Henderson, director of evangelism for Mississippi Baptists, who will be coordinator for the second group.



Bill Peacock, Foreign Mission Board coordinator for the Japan Partnership Evangelism Campaign, was in Jackson for the final orientation meeting before the campaign begins in October.

Devotional Bananas

By R. B. Moore

"For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life? Or what shall a man give in return for his life?" (Matthew 26:16 RSV)

Several years ago, a young man worked for a banana company near Kingston, Jamaica. One day an executive invited him into his office to discuss the young man's future. After noting the young man's potential, the executive said, "You have a great future with our company, with excellent prospects for rapid promotion. But we are looking for committed men. If you're going to be a success, I want you to know you have to give your life in exchange for bananas."

The young man considered the possibility for a few minutes. He decided he could not give his life "in exchange for bananas." The direction of his life was changed at that moment, never to be the same. The young man learned a valuable truth.

A successful oil field worker exchanges life for oil rigs and hard hats. A successful jeweler exchanges life for watches and rings. A successful teacher exchanges life for a telephone and a word processor. A successful pastor exchanges life for a Bible and a hospital.

Do you want to give your life in exchange for what you are doing? If so, you increase your potential for success. But if not, what will it profit you to gain the highest position of influence in your line of work, yet waste your life? What will you give then in exchange for your life?

Moore is pastor, Improve, Columbia.

1,914 youths choose Christ

NASHVILLE (BP) — A total of 1,914 public decisions for Christ were made during four Southern Baptist Sunday School Board church training department conferences this summer, where nearly 1,400 young people placed their names on the Youth Prayer Corps roster.

The conferences were held at Glorieta (N.M.) and Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist conference centers.

Total attendance at the four weeks, two Summer Youth Celebrations and two Church Training Leadership Conferences, was 8,078, according to statistics compiled by the board's church training department, which changes its name to the discipleship training department Oct. 1.

The total decisions at all four conferences included 291 professions of faith, 1,378 rededications, 62 pledging to enter church vocations and 183 other decisions.

Revival dates

Midway, Jackson: Sept. 24-27; Sunday, 10:15 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Guy Henderson, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Bob Nations, music; David Wilkinson, pastor.

Letters From Carey

No. 8-89

BY JIM EDWARDS
Interim President

"And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I shall look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth." Genesis 9:16

The Promise Of Our Students At William Carey

The Missionfest Mississippi was a thrilling program that the entire state should be proud of as part of our strategy to evangelize the world. Our Convention leadership and staff did an outstanding job, and Dr. Keith Parks delivered one of his typically inspiring challenges and calls to commit to a greater emphasis on missions. Gradually, quietly, movingly, and sensitively he led many in the audience to more involvement in foreign missions.

During the closing service on Saturday, the missionaries came forth by ones and twos with brief statements about their work and testimonies about the results. I was especially moved by Diane Smith (artist/illustrator in the Ivory Coast) and Rebekah Naylor (physician in India). God has indeed used their special talents to do his work. As I listened to them and others, and as people moved down the aisles responding to Dr. Parks call, I wondered if a potential William Carey was present. Is there someone here that God will call out — a Carey-like promise as a missionary from Mississippi, I pondered? Then I thought about our students at William Carey College and about their promise. I had asked two of them — Glen Matthews and Cindy Rachael — to write to you this week through this column. Would they reflect the real promise of our namesake as they spoke to you from the heart? I'll let you decide. God already knows — He just won't tell.

"ALL OF THE RAINBOWS?"

As I drove onto the campus of William Carey College in the summer of 1986, I saw before me an alternative. I had, in fact, some three months earlier, entered the final stages of preparation which would land me at Mars Hill College. There I would major in church music and be eternally happy, lost somewhere in the mountains of North Carolina. What more could a country boy from Poplarville, Mississippi, ask for? Could anything excite him more than this? Sensing your desire for a reply to this pressing question, I am inclined to answer yes. Something did excite him more, and it was that "something" which brought him to William Carey College. I had been offered a position in the 1986 Carey Dinner Theatre company, and I anxiously accepted. By the end of the two short months to come, I would meet some of the most outstanding and influential people in my life and would apply for admission to the college.

Recently, I entered the campus and drove into the same parking lot where I, as a high school graduate, had parked my car some four summers ago. Experiencing some form of *deja vu*, I could see in my mind's eye a shy, young man walking across the campus with a look of oblivion engulfing his face. Many things have changed since then; however, as President of the Student Government Association, I am witness to such blank expressions each day. They continue to haunt our campus and, I must admit, are not entirely patented by the freshman class. During the past school year, a look of uncertainty had crept into the ranks of the upperclassmen, causing fear, doubt, confusion, and, even more sadly, a close-mindedness among them.

Many of the positive traits that attracted these students to Carey had begun to wither, resulting in a negative student outlook and an inability of students to cope with the differences and peculiarities of those around them. This, as students, was the biggest problem facing us.

If someone were to ask me what I felt the most dominant color in a rainbow is, I would have to respond that no one color is more dominant than the other. Assuming that this statement is correct, let us look at the rainbow which is William Carey College — the symbol adopted by Dr. Edwards to represent our new beginning. One may say that the colors represent Carey's campuses. Broken down further, the colors might represent the departments which form the school's educational structure. Another may compare the colors to the types of students who inhabit Carey's halls. Take one of these divisions away, no matter what they represent, and Carey is not complete. The rainbow is visible, but it is not as beautiful as it could be.

How can the students of William Carey College overcome their problem? We must realize that each student is a vital part of the Carey that can be. We must accept the fact that God bestows to students gifts not only in Biblical studies or the fine arts, but also in science and athletics. In turn, Carey, as an institution, must realize that it is imperative that it offer to students the best in all fields of learning and that it is open-minded in its curriculum and programs.

Since mid-summer, under the leadership of many fine members of the administration, faculty, and staff, Carey and its students have begun to realize these important facts and are doing their best to see that our school reaches and maintains its full potential. As this continues to be done, Carey will no longer be an alternative. It will, as I have learned, be the IDEAL.

C. Glen Matthews, Poplarville, MS. Senior, majoring in musical theatre with a minor in music; Home church: First Baptist Church, Poplarville; currently serving as Student Government Association president in Hattiesburg.

"A PIECE OF FERTILE GROUND"

"Inch by inch, and row by row, we're gonna make this garden grow. All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground." Sometimes we hear of life as compared to a garden, that place before us that we are to nurture so as to reach its potential. I can see in the words of this song by John Denver the reflection of two promises: first, the promise from God to the giver of life and growth, and second, the promise to be claimed for any student who is willing to diligently toil the soil of opportunity. For me, my opportunities begin with William Carey College.

Why did I come to William Carey College? It was not because of beautiful buildings or external trappings though I've seen many make that choice. For me my choice was internal, it was because of those things like the product I had seen in the lives of many of its graduates. It was because I found myself in the presence of wise gardeners who were able to cultivate the lives of young people like myself. It was because I saw a place of promise in which to plant my dreams which would help me in pursuing my future. It was because I had hoped to serve in the shadow of the life of the man William Carey, who because of his great servanthood was named the "Father of Missions." Again I ask why did I come to William Carey College? I came to William Carey College because I saw an opportunity to grow in my life a garden productive to God and to those around me.

What are some of the promises I've captured while I've been at Carey? Promises of how my education will apply to my career as well as my life. Thanks to our leaders, one of the most beautiful pictures I could paint for you about my school would be a picture representing the relationship between that of a guest and a host. Hosts are such givers. The faculty here at Carey are hosts and they treat their students as their guests. Most college students perceive their education as a long endless row of obligations to be fulfilled. But my teachers have taught me that the promise of learning has much to do with my life experiences, my insights and my convictions. I'm not just getting lectures I'm getting life-long lessons. It has been said that a good host is the one who believes that his guest is carrying a promise he wants to reveal to anyone who shows genuine interest. At Carey our students are shown a genuine interest, and we are honored to be guests of such loyal hosts.

The most important promise that Carey offers me is the continuing challenge for spiritual growth. I had a freshman tell me just today: "You know, it's so neat that almost every conversation I've had either leads to God or leads to a sense of His presence." I'm really grateful to be attending a Baptist college, where daily our Lord is lifted up and not hidden under a bushel. Many Christians stay baby Christians because they are not fed. The atmosphere of our college, especially in the direction we're now heading, is a market place for Christians to be nurtured.

A lot has happened on our campus in the last year. Many people have questioned the promise that William Carey College holds as an educational institution. If only you could look into the heartbeats of the students here — Carey is a place of choice for us because we see it as a place of promise.

"Inch by inch and row by row, we're going to make this garden grow. All it takes is a rake and a hoe and a piece of fertile ground."

Words by John Denver . . . The Promise from God . . . The Promise to any student willing to toil the soil of opportunity at William Carey College . . . and a piece of fertile ground!

I Corinthians 15:58

THEREFORE, MY DEAR BROTHER, STAND FIRM. LET NOTHING MOVE YOU. ALWAYS GIVE YOURSELVES FULLY TO THE WORK OF THE LORD, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THAT YOUR LABOR IN THE LORD IS NOT IN VAIN..

Cindy Rachel, Gretna, LA; Senior majoring in Psychology with a minor in Religion; Home church: Oak Park Baptist Church, New Orleans; summer missionary to Ohio in 1988; youth director at Poplar Springs Drive Baptist Church, Meridian, 1989; internship at First Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, this semester. Currently serving as BSU president.

P.S. Next week. The promise of our faculty at William Carey College.

Just for the Record



Michael Memorial Church in Gulfport recently broke ground for its new sanctuary and education building on 9.4 acres which was purchased. Pictured are, left to right, Hal

Kibler, chairman, Challenge To Build; Jack Taylor, chairman of deacons; Roland Padgett, building committee chairman; Richard Ware, project overseer; and Craig Conner, pastor.



Dixie Church, Hattiesburg, held a GA recognition service on July 16. The theme was "Pass It On." Mission Adventure charms were awarded to Mechelle Williams and Mandy Cox for earning all six GA badges. Pictured, left to right, are Mechelle Williams, Mandy Cox, Jennifer Davis, Lisa Gandy, Nicole Shepherd, Melanie Cox, Meagan Cox, Jenny DeFatta, and Donna DeFatta, leader.



GAs of Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall, held their Mission Adventure Recognition Service, June 25. Girls earning badges are pictured, first row, Stacy Rankin, Shanna Staines; second row, Mandy Brown, Melissa Sullivan, Jennifer Smith, Lori Gowan, Sayre Means, Dawn May; third row, Stephanie May, Kathy Smith, Stephanie Means, Bonita Rankin, Betina Sullivan; fourth row, Liz Aultman, Lindsay Thornton, Jennifer Brown, and Crystal Hopkins.

Leaders are Connie Aultman, Reba Means, Bessie Brown, and Diana Thornton.

The youth group, "New Generation," from Pine Grove Church, Dumas, spent seven days in Gatlinburg, Tenn., working with the Home Mission Board's Smoky Mountain Resort Ministries. The youth worked with five campgrounds every day teaching Bible school to the children and youth of the campers. The group shared in puppets, drama, and choir each night.

Temple Church, Big Point, will have a lay renewal weekend, led by Mahlon Thomas; services will be Friday, 6-6:45 p.m., covered dish supper, 6:55-8:15 p.m., services; Saturday, noon-12:45 p.m., luncheon at church, 12:45-2, afternoon session; Saturday, 6-6:45 p.m., covered dish supper, 6:55-8:15 p.m., services; Sunday, 9:45-10:45, Sunday School, and 10:55-noon, worship hour.

The single adult leadership training retreat for area 7 at Brookhaven is set for Sept. 30, at First Church there, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Registration is \$2.50 which includes materials and refreshments. Jeff Swedenburg, single adult director for Copiah/Lincoln Association, and area coordinator, will teach the book "Bonded Together in Love, Singles Building Relationships." Child care will be provided through six years.

First Church, Ridgeland will host Truth, a contemporary gospel troupe, Sept. 25, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$2 at the door. For more information, phone 856-6505.

Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis will honor National Rehabilitation Week, Sept. 23, with a homecoming celebration, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Church, Madison is planning celebration of its Centennial on Nov. 5. The church requests anyone with old photos, membership records, or related items to contact the church or Nina Batchelor at 856-6177.

Blue Mountain College's speech and drama department will present Mark Twain at 7 p.m. on Sept. 26 in the Garrett Auditorium on the BMC campus. Twain will be portrayed by Donald King Cowan. Tickets are \$4.50.

Loop Road to constitute

Loop Road Mission, Perry Association, will be constituted into a church on Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. The new church has been a mission of First Church, Richton.

It will enter its new red brick \$150,000 facility in October. Interim Pastor J. B. Bell notes this is the first new Baptist church in Perry County since the 1940s.

Other areas of service through his church have included his serving as president of Brotherhood, associate superintendent of Sunday School, a substitute and regular teacher of an adult men's Sunday School class, a teacher and worker at the Heritage Manor Sunday School ministry.

In May of this year Russell and his wife, Clara Mae, celebrated 51 years of married life.

Another feature of the service was the presentation of a special resolution commending the contributions made to the life and ministry of First Church by the late Weldon F. Allen. Mrs. Allen accepted the framed certificate of appreciation on behalf of her family.

William Carey College Interim President James Edwards recently presented a certificate of appreciation to Obra Quave, chair of the division of fine arts. Quave and other faculty members were recognized at a dinner for their years of service to the college.

Tim Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith of Carthage, was licensed to the gospel ministry by Sunrise Church, Leake Association, on Aug. 20. He is a senior at the University of Southern Mississippi, and is currently serving as youth director at First Church, Glendale.

Whitesand pastor retires after 22 years

After 41 years in the ministry, Billy Greene retired on Aug. 27. On the last Sunday of his 22 year pastorate at Whitesand Church, Prentiss, he and his wife, Bess Ann, were honored with a reception in the church fellowship hall.

He has served Martintown Church in Union County, Pine Grove in Clarke County, Palmer and Fellowship churches in Tippah County, Mount Zion in Tate County, Rawls Springs in Forrest County, and Whitesand in Jefferson Davis County.

Mr. and Mrs. Greene will make their home in Rawls Springs near Hattiesburg. He will be available for interim and supply work after the first of January. Their address is Rt. 15, Box 1011, Hattiesburg, MS 39401 and telephone number is (601) 268-2249.

Joe Hudson minister, dies

Joe W. Hudson, 70, a retired Baptist minister, died of heart failure Sept. 4 in Natchez.

Services were held Sept. 6 at Monticello Baptist Church in Monticello.

Hudson was a member of Morgan-town Church. In the past, he served as a minister to churches in Bassfield, Mount Olive, Monticello, Hollandale, and Walnut Grove.

"My father was the son of a minister," said Hudson's son, Joe W. Hudson Jr. of Natchez. "His father died when he was 16."

As a child growing up in Taylorsville, Hudson would sit atop his family piano and sing hymns, his son said.

Hudson was a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary.

During the late 1950s and early 1960s he served on various committees and boards of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

Other survivors include wife, Pattie; daughter, Robbie Hudson Jones of Nashville; one brother; one sister; and four grandchildren.

Perhaps any of us could get along with perfect people, but our tasks is to get along with imperfect people — Richard L. Evans

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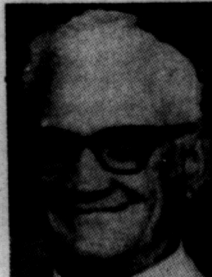
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Names in the news

D. Cliff Russell, a member of First Church, Yazoo City, since 1927, was named the 1989 CHURCHMAN OF THE YEAR in special ceremonies



Russell Webb Brame.

In 1950 Russell was ordained a deacon. Through the next 39 years he served as a deacons' council officer on numerous occasions.

Final instructions for entering the Promised Land

By R. Raymond Lloyd

Numbers 31:1-36:13 (33:51-56; 35:10-12, 25-27)

The journey of 40 years from slavery to liberty is recorded in chapter 33. Moses has recorded each stage of the journey and the various stop-over points. Israel loved to tell her story, to remind herself that even in spite of her waywardness and rebellion, God had been good to her and now brought her to the threshold of the Promised Land. While to us it may be a boring list of place names (42 different stages on the journey are mentioned), to Israel it was a way of telling the great story of God who in grace had acted in her behalf. In a distinct way, she is telling her own testimony.

Now she has descended the precipitous mountains of Moab to the banks of the muddy Jordan, directly across from Jericho, and separated from the city by the river and about three miles of badly eroded arid wasteland. Archaeologists indicate the distance between the two cities mentioned in vs. 49 is about 5 miles. This is some mob of people.

Drive out all the inhabitants (33:51-53, 55, 56). God's instructions to Joshua are forthright and



Lloyd

BIBLE BOOK

clear: "drive out . . . destroy . . . demolish . . ." (vs. 52). With such commands we may have some real moral problems. Verses 55-56 make clear the reasoning of a jealous God. If the Canaanites are allowed to remain in the land, they will have a negative influence on the faith and worship of Israel. Remember God is a holy God, the God of the Ten Commandments who said: "I am the Lord your God . . . no other gods before me . . . not make for yourself a graven image . . . for I the Lord your God am a jealous God" (Ex. 20:3-6). It is not that Israel could not inherit and possess the land, but if they do not drive out the Canaanites and wipe out their system of worship, then they would not enjoy peace, but experience the constant aggravation, irritation, and provocation to evil from them. In fact, the negative effect could be so severe that Israel herself could be driven out of the land (vs. 56) — a probable reference to what actually took place in captivity by Assyria and Babylon when much of Israel was carried away captive.

What a stern and eternal truth is here. If we do not drive out sin from our lives, but allow it to retain a beachhead or foothold here and there, we will forfeit the peace and joy of the

Christian life that God intended us to have. If Jesus is Saviour and Lord, our whole lifestyle: morals, attitudes, vocabulary, business practices, friendships, family relationships, pleasure, goals, needs to be transformed. We may remain in the promised land of his salvation, but be bereft of fullness of his blessings. Such was the tragic story of Israel. God grant that we shall profit from her mistakes.

Divide up all the land (33:54). The land is to be divided by "lot," but with consideration for the size of the tribe (chapter 26). This is not just a formal, cold procedure, but a method whereby God provides fairly according to their needs. "My God shall supply all that you need . . ." is the way Paul put it, and the truth remains.

Decide on all the cities of refuge (35:10-12, 25-27). When the land was allotted, the tribe of Levi was given no land. Here the Lord instructs Moses to command each tribe to provide cities in which the Levites might live. Forty-eight cities and their surrounding pasture land are provided (vs. 7).

Six of these cities are designated as "cities of refuge" (vs. 10-34 — may have existed as such prior to Israel's arrival), places for the legal protection of a person who "without intent" put another to death. The background of the passage is the "Lex Talionis," the old tribal law of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth."

This called for a kinsman of the one slain to take the life of the slayer. Obviously this allowed no trial or exploration of the factors related to the death of an individual. It also could produce continuous retaliations, resulting in numerous deaths, family feuds, and tribal wars.

The "cities of refuge" provided a haven of safety for the slayer from the "avenger of blood" until a trial could take place "before the congregation" (vss. 12, 25). The purpose of the trial was to determine the intent to kill. If the murder was intentional (vss. 16-18), there is no protection and the murderer rightfully deserved to die. If the murderer was without intent (vss. 22ff) the murderer may stay safely in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest.

Mercy is manifest in the asylum provided. The seriousness of the offense is revealed in the confinement of the slayer in the city. If the slayer goes outside the city, thus outside the protection of the high priest, the avenger could fulfil the "Lex Talionis" and not be guilty of murder. When the high priest dies, the slayer may return to his land (vs. 28) with his own tribe, affording him legal protection from the avenger.

The great underlying truth is that God reveals himself as just, yet tempered with mercy. This same posture should be emulated by us in personal, as well as civil, affairs.

Lloyd is pastor, First, Starkville.

Proverbs reminds of the power of speech

By Randall L. Von Kanel

Proverbs 18:20-21; 12:6, 17-19; 15:1, 4; 16:27-28; 26:23-26

Someone has said, "There are two times in life when you are totally alone: Just before you die and just before you make a speech."



Von Kanel

Whether in a formal speech or merely in the informal conversations of life, surely we are our own in terms of being responsible for what we say. One of God's greatest gifts to man is the gift of speech, the gift of communicating thoughts and feelings through the medium of spoken words. With the gift comes the responsibility to use the gift wisely. Each of us has the opportunity and corresponding obligation to use our speech wisely.

In this final lesson of the unit of study, "Living by God's Wisdom," the book of Proverbs supplies insight on the wise use of speech. Herschel Hobbs points out that this subject must have been important to the proverbist because "the author inserted so many passages on this theme" (Life and Work, p. 118). Indeed,

LIFE AND WORK

wisdom in the Proverbs collection was often associated with the proper use of the tongue. We speak wisely when we "consider the consequences of our words and develop constructive speech habits rather than destructive speech habits."

I. The Power of Speech

Our spoken words have tremendous power to influence and impact the lives of others. Words may be "cheap," but no one can discount the value of speech in the affairs of man. The writer of the proverbs (18:20-21) had in mind the consequences of our speech. He states, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue" (v. 21). The way we use our words has a direct impact on our own lives. A common saying is, "Your words come back to haunt you." They can, or they may come back to help you if you have chosen words of life. Emerson once commented, "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." Truthful, helping words spoken to others will result in blessings for the speaker. Wise is the Christian who con-

siders the tongue as an instrument of love and life.

II. The Potential of Speech

In Proverbs 12:6, words are presented as the product of one's character. The "wicked" speak to destroy the character of others while the "righteous" are vindicated through their words of truth. Proverbs 12:17-19 and Proverbs 15:1, 4 represent proverbial parallelisms that identify the contrasting potentials of spoken words. Our words can be harmful or helpful! Our words can work for good or they can have a propensity for evil. Two kinds of speech are identified as holding the potential for evil: the "lying tongue" and "grievous words."

In 12:17-19, a "lying tongue" and its potential for deceit and destruction are contrasted with the eternal good of speaking the truth. Jesus said of himself, "I am the truth" (John 14:6). He referred to Satan as a "liar, and the father of it" (John 8:44). It is never wise to speak falsely; wisdom always demands words of truth.

Words can be used to hurt others! "A wholesome tongue" (15:4) is used to build up and affirm someone else. "Grievous words" are the words of deepening strife that destroy the character of another. As we consider the potential of our words for good or evil, God calls us

to choose words that help and heal, not those which hinder and hurt.

III. The Product of Deceitful Speech

The consequences of an unwise use of the tongue are significant. In Proverbs 16:27-28, the writer assesses the malicious words of those who act ungodly. The product of such speech is inevitably destructive to life and relationships in life. The hypocrisy of a deceitful tongue is identified as the confirmation of a wicked heart. The hypocrisy of deceit will be ultimately revealed for the wickedness that it is! Wise speech will avoid hypocrisy and deceit and choose to utilize words of truth.

Words can hurt or help! God has reminded us in the Proverbs of the power and potential of our speech. With such a resource let us be wise in committing ourselves to using speech for good! I was challenged recently at a pastor's conference to be grateful for "a ministry of words." God called me to a "ministry of the Word," a ministry which is given its most powerful avenue through a ministry of spoken words. All of us are called to minister to others through words of truth and love! The Bible says, "If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God" (1 Peter 4:11 NIV).

Von Kanel is pastor, First, Hattiesburg.

God gives new life, even in hopeless situations

By Billy R. Williams

Ezekiel 37:3-14

The central truth of this week's focal passage is that God can give new life to people even in the face of the most hopeless situations. This



Williams

truth is graphically portrayed in Ezekiel's vision recorded in verses 1-10, and in the interpretation of that vision given in verses 11-14. The vision of the dry bones does not speak to the issue of the resurrection of believers or of the Jews. God made plain to Ezekiel that the vision was a prophecy concerning the national and spiritual restoration of Israel (verses 11-12). However, the truths set forth through this vision are relevant not only to the restoration of Israel, but also to the regeneration of a lost person and to the renewal of a dead church.

To make Ezekiel aware of Israel's plight and God's concern, the prophet is carried by God in a vision to a desolate plain (valley) probably near Jerusalem (verse 1). Scattered on the plain were countless disjointed and bleached

UNIFORM

bones. To impress upon Ezekiel the hopelessness of the situation, God compelled the prophet to walk among the bones. Christians need to be careful that they are not so insulated from the lost world and are unaware of its depravity and the world's desperate need.

God posed the question to Ezekiel, "Son of man, can these bones live?" The obvious answer from the human standpoint was no. However, while Ezekiel may not have had enough faith to answer positively, he did have enough knowledge of God's ability to answer discreetly that only the Lord God knew for certain (verse 3). Christians know that God can give life, but confronted by the deadness of their churches and the unresponsiveness of many people, they often lack the faith to believe that God will give life.

Ezekiel was then commanded by God to preach a message of renewed life to the scattered bones (verses 4-6). Preaching to dead bones may have seemed as futile as his past ministry; nevertheless, Ezekiel obeyed the Lord. The Word of God needs to be faithfully proclaimed today, for the same life-giving

power is still inherent within it.

As Ezekiel preached, there was a rattling sound as the bones joined back together (verse 7). Where once there had been disjointed bones, skeletons appeared. The skeletons were quickly covered by muscles, sinew, and skin (verse 8). Upon the plain there soon lay row after orderly row of bodies — but bodies with no life. Could this be a picture of many churches today? A sound of activity is heard, but no real spirit-induced life is present. God's people must not be satisfied with orderly deadness, but must seek to be infused with power from on high.

At this point Ezekiel was commanded to prophecy to the wind (also translated "breath" or "spirit," verse 9). The prophet uttered a prayer as he requested God's animating force to come from all directions ("... from the four winds . . .") to bring life to the dead corpses. As God breathed into Adam the breath of life and he became a living soul, so the breath of God moved upon the dead bodies, and they became a mighty, living army (verse 10). It is clear in the light of the New Testament revelation that this miraculous occurrence was the work of the Holy Spirit. As Stuart Briscoe stated, "Preaching the Word in the power of the Spirit will not only make bones into skeletons, but

skeletons into corpses, corpses into people, and people into armies."

In verses 11-14 God gave Ezekiel the interpretation of the vision with a slight change in that the bones were no longer exposed but buried. It was made clear that the bones referred to the whole of Israel in captivity — the Northern and the Southern kingdoms (verse 10). The exiles had lost all hope of restoration for they saw Babylon as their national and spiritual graveyard. As God interpreted the vision, he assured Ezekiel that he would open their grave (Babylon), restore life, and return them to the promised land as a united people (verse 12). There also would be the restoration of the confidence that they were God's covenant people (verse 13). However, not only would national restoration come, but the Lord would also bring spiritual renewal as well (verse 14). Whatever this may have meant to Ezekiel and his people, it was ultimately fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost as God poured out his Spirit upon "all flesh" (Acts 2:17) because of the redeeming work of Christ. Any person dead in sin can be made alive, and any church can become a vibrant proclaimer of the Word of God because the Spirit has been poured out.

Williams is pastor, First, Gautier.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 27, Clinton, MS 39060-0027, (601) 922-2242

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A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Rev. Ronnie E. Robinson, bi-vocational pastor of Mount Moriah Baptist Church, Lincoln Association, and current President of The Village Board of Trustees receives an updated service pin from Madge King, Social Service Secretary for The Village.

Fire at Louise church sets volunteers aflame

By Anne W. McWilliams

When First Church, Louise, burned, it set fire to the volunteers — or so it seems. Two weeks after their August 1 "starting to rebuild" date, they had the framework up and were well on the way to a new sanctuary.

The church at Louise burned in January of this year. After that, Maynard Hill of Moorhead, who had been preaching there part-time last year, became the full-time pastor. Members began meeting in what was the home economics department at an old school, and also was the former city hall.

Volunteers have gone from all sections of the state to help rebuild. Some have stayed on the grounds in campers. Thomas and Faye Keith from Hollandale went in the beginning and stayed. Catherine and Joe Heranney, also of Hollandale, have helped often. "June" and Theo Bennett of Cleveland camped in the churchyard, too.

Some of the largest groups of workers have been from Harrisburg, Tupelo, and Woolmarket, Biloxi. Harrisburg men nailed on the plywood; Woolmarket workers installed the roof. Glenn Nace, Kokomo pastor, is doing the electrical work. People from Louise have pitched in, members as well as those from other congregations, including Center Ridge, Yazoo County. Two teen boys from Louise, Jeffrey Peebles and Tommy Bullock, have done their share. Frank Pruitt, Humphreys County Brotherhood director, is coordinating the project, which is sponsored by the state Brotherhood Department. Floyd Lewis, Brandon, a Camper on Mission, assisted with planning.

On Saturday, Aug. 19, a large group of volunteers worked all day. First Church, Belzoni, furnished lunch. First Church, Moorhead, provided lunch on another Saturday. Neighbors in Louise have constantly brought food to the workers.

These men have kept working sometimes when the heat index was over 100 degrees. Helen Hill, pastor's wife, has kept lemonade pitchers fill-

ed to give the carpenters refreshing breaks. Hoover Lee, mayor of Louise, has furnished the ice for the lemonade and other soft drinks.

In April, after the church burned in January, the pastorium caught fire. Both fires were traced to faults in electrical wiring. The Hills, who had been living in Moorhead, happened to be in Louise the weekend the pastorium caught fire, so they managed to douse the blaze. In May, they moved into the pastorium.

The new sanctuary will seat around 120. The education building will have six classrooms, pastor's office, storage space, fellowship hall, carport, and ramps for the handicapped. First Church, Jackson, donated 150 books for the library. Mrs. Hill said that the communion table and a desk were saved at the time of the fire. She has refinished the desk so it can be used in the foyer.

The building committee is made up of the church's one deacon, Keith McIntosh; Glenn Daniels, chairman; John Sandlin; and the pastor. Mrs. Hill has also contributed to the planning.

Tony Honeycutt, who teaches at Mississippi Delta Junior College, revised building plans furnished by James Harrell of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

There's still work to be done, but a new church in Louise is on the way.

Bricklayers needed

Church destroyed by fire early this year. Desperate need for bricklayers. Ready for inside finish work (paneling, etc.) Contact Rev. Maynard Hill, P. O. Box 244, Louise, MS 39097, 836-5308 or 246-8223 or Mr. Dan Fulton, Oak Street, Louise, MS 39097, 836-5541.



Volunteers install a window at First Church, Louise. The three at left, Joe Heranney, Hollandale; "June" Bennett, Cleveland; and Thomas Keith, Hollandale, had been camping in the churchyard.



Maynard Hill, Louise pastor, over-all clad and with an apronful of nails, is ready to help.



Jeffrey Peebles, Louise teen, wields a hammer.

Homecomings

Emmanuel (Washington): 36th year; Sept. 17; Miracle Singers from the Baddour Center in Senatobia gave concert, 10 a.m.; Grover "Possum" Glynn, pastor, Oak Hill, Poplarville, guest speaker; covered dish lunch at the new family life center followed by afternoon singing; Jack Moore, pastor.

Beulah (Holmes): Sept. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; James C. Carr, former pastor, speaker; dinner on the grounds at noon; afternoon song service featuring The Spokesmen, Ackerman; W. M. Daves, pastor.

Belden (Lee): Sept. 24; services, 10:15 a.m.; 25th anniversary at the church's present location; Horace Thomas, pastor at time of building dedication, message; Donald Baggett, new pastor.

Hope (Neshoba): Oct. 1; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship at 11 with Wayne Burkes, former pastor of Hope and now Central District Highway Commissioner; lunch at noon; gospel singing afterwards with introduction of special guests; James H. Young Jr., pastor; William Crenshaw, music director.

Sunrise, Carthage: Sept. 24; Alton Hodnet, pastor of Deer Creek Church, Rolling Fork, and a former pastor of Sunrise, bringing the morning message; the Plantation Place Boys of Hattiesburg singing in the afternoon services; Frank Smith, pastor.

Weathersby, Mendenhall: Oct. 1; former pastor Johnny Jones, preaching at 11 a.m.; lunch at noon; afternoon singing; Foy Killingsworth, pastor.

Turnpike, Pontotoc: 103rd year, Sept. 24; 10 a.m., singing and preaching; lunch at noon; special music in the afternoon.

Revival results

West End (Clay): youth revival; four professions of faith; one addition by letter; Ron Harrison, evangelist; Keith Owens, music evangelist; Terry Partin, pastor; Eric Kachur, minister of music and youth.

Gillsburg, Osyka: Aug. 27-30; 80 answering the altar call for rededication, five professions of faith; four by letter; Steve Hale, evangelist, Evansville, Ind.; Larry Cotten, Meadville, music; Paul Pearson, pastor.

Revival dates

Calvary (Lamar): Sept. 24-27; senior adult revival, W. Levon Moore, retired director of missions, Kosciusko, guest speaker; Dallas Rayborn, Hattiesburg, music; Ronnie Jones, pastor; Sunday services, 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 7:30 p.m. Mon.-Wed. services, 11 a.m., ending on Wed. with a covered dish luncheon.

Valley Hill (Carroll): Sept. 24-29; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 nightly; Gary Tanner, evangelist.

Bethel, Columbus: Oct. 1-6; Sunday, homecoming, services, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m., dinner on the grounds; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Billy R. Thomas, evangelist; Reggie Bridges, music evangelist; David Brooks, pastor.

Enon (Clay): Sept. 24-29; 7 p.m. nightly; David Kendall, evangelist; music by Danny and Laura Avery; Lawrence Rannels, pastor.

Holly, Corinth: Sept. 24-26; Sunday at 7 p.m.; Mon.-Tues. at 7:30 p.m.; James Travis, chairman of the division of biblical and associated studies at Blue Mountain College, evangelist; Philip Cooper, pastor.

Wheeler Grove, Corinth: Oct. 1-5; services at 7 nightly; Bobby Moore of Broadway Church, Olive Branch, evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

Robinhood, Brandon: Sept. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Phil McCarty of Mississippi College, evangelist; Ted Dukes, pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

Sept. 24-
Oct. 1 Sunday School Preparation Week (SS Emphasis)
Sept. 28 Handbell Leadership Seminar; FBC, Brandon; 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (CM)
Sept. 29-30 Church Weekday Education Directors Retreat; Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville; 1 p.m., 29th-1 p.m., 30th (CAPM)
Sept. 29-
Oct. 1 Campers on Mission Fall Rally; South Mississippi; 5 p.m., 29th-
Sept. 29-
Oct. 1 Mississippi Baptist Student Convention; Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 4 p.m., 29th-10 a.m., 1st (SW)



Arbor Grove team teaches in Colorado

A group from Arbor Grove Church, Chickasaw Association, recently completed a mission trip to Florida Baptist Mission in Durango, Colo. The team conducted a Vacation Bible School, June 26-30, with 60 children and youths registered and two professions of faith. Left to right are members of the team: Ryan Houser, Stacey Curry, Jackie Verell, Arlie Holloway, Gladys King, Melissa West, Chelly Long, Paul Childress, Jennifer Young, Wayne King, pastor of Arbor Grove, Angela Weaver, and DeAnna Griggs.

Baptist Record

005-DTM 291 9-21
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SO 00
901 COMMERCE ST SUITE 401
NASHVILLE TN 37203

September 21, 1989

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205